

What is claimed is:

1. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition containing a hydroxyl group-containing resin (A), a curing agent (B) and a color pigment (C), a resulting coating film having a lightness index or a L value of 80 or more, the curing agent (B) being a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B<sub>1</sub>) blocked with a pyrazole blocking agent.

2. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blocking agent (B) is a mixture of the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B<sub>1</sub>) with at least one curing agent selected from the group consisting of a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B<sub>2</sub>) blocked with a blocking agent other than the pyrazole blocking agent, a water-dispersible blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B<sub>3</sub>) and a melamine resin curing agent (B<sub>4</sub>).

3. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) is at least one hydroxyl group-containing resin selected from the group consisting of a hydroxyl group-containing acrylic resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polyether resin, a hydroxyl group-containing polycarbonate resin and a hydroxyl group-containing urethane resin.

4. A light-colored water based intercoat coating

composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin is a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin (A<sub>1</sub>) containing as essential components at least one polybasic acid selected from the group consisting of an alicyclic polybasic acid (a<sub>1</sub>) and other polybasic acid (a<sub>3</sub>), and at least one polyhydric alcohol selected from the group consisting of an alicyclic polyhydric alcohol (a<sub>2</sub>) and other polyhydric alcohol (a<sub>4</sub>).

5. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin is a hydroxyl group-containing polyester resin (A<sub>2</sub>) containing as essential components an alicyclic polybasic acid (a<sub>1</sub>) and/or an alicyclic polyhydric alcohol (a<sub>2</sub>), other polybasic acid (a<sub>3</sub>) and other polyhydric alcohol (a<sub>4</sub>).

6. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B<sub>1</sub>) is a blocked polyisocyanate curing agent blocked with 3,5-dimethylpyrazole blocking agent.

7. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B<sub>1</sub>) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or an alicyclic

polyisocyanate.

8. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein a polyisocyanate constituting the blocked polyisocyanate curing agent (B<sub>2</sub>) is an aliphatic polyisocyanate or alicyclic polyisocyanate.

9. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an extender pigment (D).

10. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the water based intercoat coating composition further contains an urethane emulsion (E).

11. A light-colored water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein a content of the urethane emulsion (E) is in the range of 10 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of a total solid content of the hydroxyl group-containing resin (A) and the curing agent (B).

12. A multi-layered coating film formed by successively coating a cationic electrodeposition coating composition,

coating a water based intercoat coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, optionally curing, and coating a topcoat coating composition by at least one layer.